

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsphome.htm>

Date: January 23, 2003
Contact: Ms. Mary Neff
Phone: (360) 705-5125

*****For Immediate Release*****

Serpas Recognizes WSP Identification & Criminal History Section

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that the entire staff of the Washington State Patrol Identification and Criminal History Section was presented with the Chief's Award for Professional Excellence.

From September 2001 – September 2002, four new technology projects were implemented that improved public safety and totally changed the way the Section conducts business. Each individual project included over a year of work in planning, designing, testing, and implementing, and involved everyone from project managers to front line staff.

- **In September 2001**, the criminal history system (Washington State Identification System [WASIS]) was electronically interfaced with the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), reducing redundant data entry. Criminal arrest and applicant fingerprint cards are closely coordinated to ensure the data is entered only once and flows correctly through each system.
- **In June 2002**, the new Internet application, Washington Access to Criminal History (WATCH), was implemented. WATCH provides on-line access of criminal history information to the public. The entire "look and feel" of the application changed and provided increased functionality and accuracy of criminal history record information to the citizens of Washington.
- **In July 2002**, the AFIS/WASIS systems were interfaced with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Integrated AFIS (IAFIS). This means all fingerprint card submissions, once digitized and automated at the Section, are forwarded electronically to the FBI. Previously national fingerprint searches sent to the FBI on paper took weeks and even months to process. Now the results of these fingerprint searches are returned within hours or minutes of receipt at the FBI's facility in Clarksburg, West Virginia.
- **In September 2002**, the live-scan to AFIS connectivity project was completed, which connected 20 live-scan devices located in local law enforcement agencies throughout the state to AFIS/WASIS. This changed traditional mailed-in criminal arrest fingerprint card processing to electronic submissions, achieving real-time identification of criminal offenders before their release back into the community.

"These men and women make a difference everyday in the Washington State Patrol. They are totally committed as one team, and I am elated to present them this award," stated Chief Serpas.

###

